

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A design system comprising an editor configured to
2 display segments of code, the segments of code comprising an
3 active segment of code and an inactive segment of code, wherein
4 the editor is configured to display the active segment of code in a
5 first display format and the inactive segment of code in a second
6 display format different than the first display format.
- 1 2. The design system of claim 1, wherein the segments of
2 code further comprise a comment, wherein the editor is further
3 configured to display the comment and the inactive segments of
4 code with at least one same display format.
- 1 3. The design system of claim 2, wherein the at least one
2 same display format is a visibly different gray scale from the first
3 display format.
- 1 4. The design system of claim 3, wherein the inactive
2 segment of code has at least one different display format than the
3 comment.
- 1 5. The design system of claim 1, further comprising a pre-
2 processor directive, wherein the pre-processor directive defines
3 segments of code as active or inactive.
- 1 6. The design system of claim 5, wherein the editor is
2 configured to automatically switch the display format of one of the
3 segments of code from the first display format to the second display
4 format in response to a change to the pre-processor directive.

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1 7. The design system of claim 5, further comprising a
2 compiler configured to interpret the pre-processor directive, a linker
3 and a debugger.

1 8. The design system of claim 5, wherein the pre-
2 processor directive is selected from the group consisting of a #define
3 directive, a #undef directive, a #if directive, a #ifdef directive, a
4 #ifndef directive, a #else directive, a #elif directive, and a #endif
5 directive.

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1 9. A method of displaying segments of source code in an
2 integrated development environment, comprising:
3 distinguishing inactive segments of the source code
4 from active segments of the source code; and
5 displaying the active segments of the source code in a
6 first display format and the inactive segments of the source code in
7 a second display format different than the first display format.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
2 receiving a change to the source code which changes
3 one of the active segments of the source code to an inactive
4 segment of the source code; and
5 changing the display format of the one of the active
6 segments of the source code from the first display format to the
7 second display format.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of
2 distinguishing includes applying a pre-processor directive to the
3 source code to determine the active and inactive segments.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the first display
2 format includes a first color or font and the second display format
3 includes a second color or font.

1 13. The method of claim 9, further comprising displaying
2 comments and inactive code segments with at least one same
3 display format.

